

Washington, D.C. –Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Portland) and Congressman Greg Walden (R-Hood River) issued the following statement in reaction to today's introduction of S. 3854, the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act of 2006, by Senator Ron Wyden (D-Ore) and Senator Gordon Smith (R-Ore).

"We're pleased that the Senate has taken action and used our bill, the Mt. Hood Stewardship Legacy Act, HR 5025, as the basis for their measure. Obviously, with the additions and changes, the public will need time to evaluate their 77-page bill. Our staffs are in discussion with the Senate staffs and will continue to be available to the senators, the stakeholders and the thousand-plus people who worked with us over the last three years in crafting the measure that the House unanimously approved in July.

However, we realize that time is quickly running out for the Senate to hold a hearing, mark up the bill in committee and get floor time in the Senate, and for the House to consider whatever the Senate approves. We'll keep doing our part to move the process along."

On July 24, 2006, Congressmen Blumenauer and Walden passed HR 5025, the Mount Hood Stewardship Legacy Act, through the House of Representatives.

Congressman Blumenauer represents the 3rd District of Oregon and Congressman Walden represents the 2nd District of Oregon; the two districts split Mt. Hood at its crest.